

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 12 to read:

1. (Four Times Amended) A sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to each predetermined sheet of a group of sheets being output by an image processing apparatus, comprising:

a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge;

a cutter for making the marker by cutting the tape at a preset length;

a guide for positioning the marker at a predetermined position on the predetermined sheet; and

a marker and sheet feeder for synchronously feeding the marker and the predetermined sheet in a partially overlapping position,

wherein the marker and sheet feeder are formed as a pair of feeding means for positioning in contact with and/or separate from each other,

the marker is adhered to the predetermined sheet by a predetermined pressure force as the predetermined sheet passes through the marker and sheet feeder without pausing the marker and sheet feeder, and

the pair of feeding means is positioned in contact with each other when the marker is adhered to the predetermined sheet, and separated from each other when sheets not receiving a marker are fed.

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12. (Four Times Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising a sheet sorting apparatus for adhering a marker to each predetermined sheet of a group of sheets discharged from the image processing apparatus, the sheet sorting apparatus comprising:

- a tape feeder for pulling out a tape having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one side edge;
- a guide for positioning the marker at a predetermined position on the predetermined sheet; and
- a marker and sheet feeder for synchronously feeding the marker and the predetermined sheet in a partially overlapping position,

wherein the marker and sheet feeder are formed as a pair of feeding means for positioning in contact with and/or separate from each other,

the marker is adhered to the predetermined sheet by a predetermined pressure force as the predetermined sheet passes through the marker and sheet feeder without pausing the marker and sheet feeder, and

the pair of feeding means is positioned in contact with each other when the marker is adhered to the predetermined sheet and in separating each other when sheets not receiving a marker are fed.

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